

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data of
a plurality of contents from a recording medium and
5 writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

displaying means for displaying a plurality of
representative images of the plurality of contents on
the same screen;

selecting means for selecting a desired
10 representative image from among the plurality of
representative images displayed on the same screen;

reproduction instruction means for instructing
reproduction start of the contents corresponding to
the selected representative image;

15 reproduction processing means for reading out
the image data stored in the memory and outputting
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
reproducing means in response to selecting operation
20 by the selecting means so that the reproducing means
reproduces part of the image data of the contents
concerning the selected representative image and
writes the part of the image data in the memory, the
controlling means further controlling the
25 reproduction processing means in response to the
reproduction start instruction by the reproduction
instruction means so that the reproduction processing

means starts readout of the part of the image data from the memory.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
5 the image data includes a plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, and each of the plurality of contents includes each one of the clips.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
10 the image data includes a plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, and each of the plurality of contents includes the plurality of clips belonging to of the same group.

15 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the displaying means generates a plurality of display hierarchies including the contents different from one another, and switches the representative image to be displayed, between the display hierarchies.

20 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image data includes the plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, the displaying means displays a first display hierarchy in which the one
25 content includes the one clip, and a second display hierarchy in which the one content includes the plurality of clips belonging to the same group while

the first display hierarchy and the second display hierarchy are switched therebetween.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein
5 the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the switching among the display hierarchies displayed by the displaying means so that the reproducing means reproduces part of the image data of the content selected from among the plurality
10 of contents of the display hierarchy newly displayed.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means further controls the reproducing means in response to the reproduction
15 start instruction so that the reproducing means starts the data reproduction of the data from the part of the image data in the selected contents and writes the data from the part of the image data in the memory.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the selecting operation by the selecting means so that the reproducing means
25 reproduces the image data according to an amount of data of the memory from a front end of the selected contents and writes the image data in the memory.

9. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data of
a plurality of contents from a recording medium and
writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

5 displaying means for displaying a plurality of
representative images of the plurality of contents on
the same screen;

selecting means for selecting a desired
representative image from among in the plurality of
10 representative images displayed on the same screen;

reproduction instruction means for instructing
reproduction start of the contents corresponding to
the selected representative image;

reproduction processing means for reading out
15 the image data stored in the memory and outputting
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
reproducing means so that the reproducing means
reproduces part of each image data of the contents
20 concerning the plurality of representative images
displayed on the same screen by the displaying means
and writes the part of each image data in the memory,
the controlling means further controlling the
reproduction processing means in response to the
25 reproduction start instruction by the reproduction
instruction means so that the reproduction processing
means starts readout of part of the image data of the

contents concerning the selected representative images from the memory.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
5 the displaying means displays the representative image in response to a display instruction of the representative image, and the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the display instruction of the representative picture so
10 that the reproducing means reproduces the part of each image data of the contents concerning the plurality of representative images displayed on the same screen by the displaying means and writes the part of each image data in the memory.

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11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image data includes a plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, and each of the plurality of contents includes one of the clips.

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12. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image data includes a plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, and each of the plurality of contents includes the plurality of clips
25 belonging to of the same group.

13. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

the displaying means generates a plurality of display hierarchies including the contents different from one another, and switches the representative image to be displayed, between the display hierarchies.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the image data includes the plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, the displaying means displays a first display hierarchy in which the one
10 content includes the one clip, and a second display hierarchy in which the one content includes the plurality of clips belonging to the same group while the first display hierarchy and the second display hierarchy are switched to therebetween.

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15. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the switching among the display hierarchies displayed by the displaying means so that
20 the reproducing means reproduces the part of each image data of the plurality of contents of the display hierarchy newly displayed.

16. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
25 the controlling means further controls the reproducing means in response to the reproduction start instruction so that the reproducing means

starts the data reproduction of the data from the part of the image data in the selected contents and writes the data from the part of the image data in the memory.

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17. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controlling means controls the reproducing means so that the reproducing means reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount which is decided on the basis of data capacity of the memory and the number of screens of the representative screen displayed on the same screen, from a front end of the contents concerning the plurality of representative images respectively and stores the image data of the predetermined amount in the memory.

18. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the displaying means displays the plurality of representative images in the form of a graphical user interface screen.

19. A reproducing apparatus comprising:
reproducing means for reproducing image data from a recording medium and writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

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displaying means for displaying on the same screen a plurality of representative images of a

plurality of predetermined reproduction start positions in the image data recorded on the recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a desired
5 representative image from among the plurality of representative images displayed on the same screen;

reproduction instruction means for instructing start of reproduction from reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative
10 image;

reproduction processing means for reading out the image data stored in the memory and outputting the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
15 reproducing means in response to selecting operation by the selecting means so that the reproducing means reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount from the reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative image and writes the
20 image data of the predetermined amount in the memory, the controlling means further controlling the reproduction processing means in response to the reproduction start instruction by the reproduction instruction means so that the reproduction processing
25 means starts readout of the image data of the predetermined amount from the reproduction start position corresponding to the representative image

selected from the memory.

20. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data
5 from a recording medium and writing the reproduced
image data in a memory;

displaying means for displaying on the same
screen reproduction start position information
concerning a plurality of predetermined reproduction
10 start positions in the image data recorded on the
recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a desired
reproduction start position in the plurality of
reproduction start positions displayed by the
15 displaying means;

reproduction instruction means for instructing
start of reproduction of the image data from the
selected reproduction start position;

reproduction processing means for reading out
20 the image data stored in the memory and outputting
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
reproducing means in response to selecting operation
by the selecting means so that the reproducing means
25 reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount
from the selected reproduction start position and
writes the image data of the predetermined amount in

the memory, the controlling means further controlling the reproduction processing means in response to the reproduction start instruction by the reproduction instruction means so that the reproduction processing means starts readout of the image data of the predetermined amount concerning the selected reproduction start position from the memory.

21. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

10 reproducing means for reproducing image data from a recording medium and writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

displaying means for displaying on the same screen a plurality of representative images corresponding to a plurality of predetermined reproduction start positions in the image data recorded on the recording medium;

15 selecting means for selecting a desired representative image from among the plurality of representative images displayed on the same screen;

20 reproduction instruction means for instructing start of reproduction from reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative image;

25 reproduction processing means for reading out the image data stored in the memory and outputting the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
reproducing means so that the reproducing means
reproduces part of image data of each of the contents
concerning the plurality of representative pictures
5 displayed on the same screen by the displaying means
and writes the part of each image data in the memory,
the controlling means further controlling the
reproduction processing means in response to the
reproduction start instruction by the reproduction
10 instruction means so that the reproduction processing
means starts readout of part of the image data of the
contents corresponding to the selected representative
image from the memory.

15 22. A reproducing apparatus comprising:
reproducing means for reproducing image data
from a recording medium and writing the reproduced
image data in a memory;
displaying means for displaying reproduction
20 start position information concerning a plurality of
predetermined reproduction start positions in the
image data recorded on the recording medium on the
same screen;
selecting means for selecting a desired
25 reproduction start position from among the plurality
of reproduction start positions displayed by the
displaying means;

reproduction instruction means for instructing
start of reproduction of the image data from the
selected reproduction start position;

reproduction processing means for reading out
5 the image data stored in the memory and outputting
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
reproducing means so that the reproducing means
reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount
10 from each of the plurality of predetermined
reproduction start positions and writes the image
data of the predetermined amount in the memory, the
controlling means further controlling the
reproduction processing means in response to the
15 reproduction start instruction by the reproduction
instruction means so that the reproduction processing
means starts readout of part of the image data of the
contents corresponding to the selected reproduction
start position from the memory.

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23. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data of
a plurality of clips from a recording medium and
writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

25 reproduction instruction means for instructing
reproduction start of the image data;

reproduction processing means for reading out

the image data stored in the memory and outputting
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the
reproducing means in accordance with a predetermined
5 reproducing condition so that the reproducing means
decides a clip of the highest priority among the
plurality of clips and reproduces the image data of a
predetermined amount from a front end of the decided
clip to write the image data of the predetermined
10 amount in the memory, the controlling means
controlling the reproduction processing means in
response to the reproduction start instruction by the
reproduction instruction means so that the
reproduction processing means starts the readout of
15 the image data of the predetermined amount of the
decided clip from the memory.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23, further
comprising changing means for changing arbitrarily
20 the reproducing condition, wherein the controlling
means newly decides the clip of the highest priority
in accordance with the reproducing condition changed
by the changing means.

25 25. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
the controlling means further controls the
reproducing means in response to the reproduction

start instruction so that the reproducing means starts the reproduction of the data after the image data of the predetermined amount in the decided clip.